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THE SEPTEMBER 1, 1940 CROP REPORT

Broadcast by E. J. Rowell, Agricultural Marketing Service, and Wallace L. Kadderly, Radio Service, in the Department of Agriculture portion, National Farm and Home Hour, Wednesday, September 11, 1940. ★ OCT 1 1940 ★  
Department of Agriculture

KADDERLY:

For the past ten days the staff of the Crop Reporting Board of the Department of Agriculture has been going over the reports sent in on September 1 by the thousands of volunteer crop reporters all over the country. The September Crop Report was issued yesterday afternoon at exactly 3:00 o'clock eastern time. E. J. "Mike" Rowell of the Agricultural Marketing Service is here to give us the highlights of this Crop Report which gives estimates of crop yields as of September first.

Mike, let's start with a brief summary. Then, take up corn, wheat, potatoes, and perhaps a few other individual crops.

ROWELL:

Taking the country as a whole, the weather was better in August than in July. The result -- a 5 percent increase in the crop yield prospects. Although several crops are late and in danger from early frosts or wet weather, an abundant harvest now seems almost assured. The picture isn't equally bright in all sections of the country. Storms along the Louisiana and Carolina coasts caused losses of rice, tobacco, peanuts, and peaches. Dry weather continued through August in an area extending from east central Nebraska to central Colorado, and into late August in central Illinois, Kentucky, and New England, while in the northern and central portions of the Corn Belt and in the Southwest good weather brought marked improvement in the prospects for corn, sorghums, small grains, and other crops. Pastures and ranges were revived over a wide area.

KADDERLY:

So much for the highlights. Now let's have a few words on some of the individual crops, starting with corn.

ROWELL:

The estimate for September 1 is slightly over 2 and a quarter billion bushels, that's an increase of about 49 million bushels over a month ago, 50 million over last year, and about equal to the ten-year average.

KADDERLY:

Wheat.

ROWELL:

The estimate is for nearly 785 million bushels, up more than 20 million bushels in the past month, and up about 30 million over the ten-year average.

KADDERLY:

Rice.

(OVER)

ROWELL:

About 52 million bushels, nearly 3 million less than expected a month ago.

KADDERLY:

Hay.

ROWELL:

The total for all types -- about 93 million tons, and that's a sizable increase over last year and also over the ten-year average.

KADDERLY:

What about fruit?

ROWELL:

Production will probably be ample but less than last year. Next month we'll be able to tell more about the prospects for citrus fruits -- right now it looks like bigger crops of oranges, lemons, and grapefruit than last year. The estimate says the commercial apple crop will be about 20 percent below last year.

KADDERLY:

Potatoes?

ROWELL:

About 16 million bushels over last year, for a total of nearly 385 million bushels.

KADDERLY:

Tobacco.

ROWELL:

The total for all types is about one and a quarter billion pounds, and that's a slight decrease from the estimate of a month ago, and only about two-thirds as big as last year's record crop.

KADDERLY:

And now we ought to have a word about the production of eggs.

ROWELL:

The rate of egg production for September 1 set a new record for that date -- averaging over 36 eggs per hundred hens. Good weather and heavier than usual culling are the reasons given.

KADDERLY:

Those are only the highlights, more - - - - -

ROWELL:

Wallace, I'd like to add that the legumes, beans, soybeans, and peanuts, will probably show a new high total.

KADDERLY:

Allright Mike - - As I started to say, those are the highlights.

More detailed information on any one of the commodities we have mentioned-- and many others may be had by writing to the Agricultural Marketing Service, Washington, D. C.

W.H.H.